

**MIDDLE ATLANTIC
Region 1
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Professional Development Award 1: Systematic Review
Workshop: The Nuts and Bolts for Librarians
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
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Executive Summary

Medical librarians are increasingly engaged as collaborators in the performance of systematic reviews, a research methodology essential to the translation of clinical evidence into practice. To enable the Levy Library to better support the systematic review development projects taking place at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, additional training in expert searching and systematic review project management was required. Particular needs included improving our understanding of the methodology of systematic review development, with a focus on standards for expert searching; identification of techniques for project organization, search delivery, and reference management; and development of a framework for managing a systematic review search service in a busy academic medical center library.

Minority Populations Served

African Americans: No
American Indians/Alaska Natives: No
Asian Americans: No
Hispanics/Latinos: No
Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders: No
Other: No

Approaches and Interventions Used

To obtain training on conducting systematic review searching and to consult with experts on managing the review process, I attended the "Systematic Review Workshop: The Nuts and Bolts for Librarians". The workshop was provided at the University of Pittsburgh - Falk Library of the Health Sciences from April 16, 2012, through April 18, 2012, with an informal pre-workshop meeting on April 15, 2012. It was organized and led by a panel of expert health science librarians and searchers who are members of the HSLS Systematic Review Group. Information about the workshop is available online, at: <http://www.hslls.pitt.edu/systematicreview/index.html>

Evaluation Activities

The workshop covered methodological standards for developing, executing and delivering a comprehensive, unbiased literature review in detail. I particularly gained from learning about protocols for harvesting search terms and the identification of grey literature databases. In addition to the nuts and bolts of searching, the workshop leaders offered strategies for maintaining successful, productive relationships with systematic review team members, e.g., identifying issues and expectations to be clarified both before beginning and throughout the project. Many of the "real life" examples offered by the panel of experts were applicable to situations I had already encountered and made the workshop particularly relevant.

Problems or Barriers Encountered

NA

Continuation Plans

Medical Librarians at the Levy Library - Mount Sinai School of Medicine have already begun to participate in systematic review teams, but no formal program is in place. I will provide an overview of the workshop to my coworkers, and we will formalize our internal standards for our roles as members of systematic review teams. We will then announce and promote the library's ability to provide expert librarian searchers to support systematic reviews undertaken by investigators at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine by October, 2012.

Impact

I anticipate that the knowledge gained in this workshop will enhance the ability of the librarians at Mount Sinai to better support the translation research in progress at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Two days after returning from the workshop, the library was asked for assistance with a literature review integral to the research and development of quality indicators that may be employed nationally. With the knowledge I have gained from the Falk Library's Systematic Reviews workshop, I now feel equipped to make a scientifically sound contribution to this research project.

Lessons Learned

NA

Other

NA

Attachment 1: AR summary data: Subcontractor activities